



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

November 2004

Class Act

School Recycling Program Newsletter

Teacher Training Opportunities

January 8 or February 5, 2005

Integrate Safer Alternatives and Label Reading into Your Health or Science Curriculum

- *It fits into my unit on Pollution and Solutions.*
- *I'm going to use it when I teach the water cycle and water contamination.*
- *It ties in with the Foss Kit on the environment.*
- *When I teach students about reading food labels, I'm going to introduce reading household product labels.*
- *This fits into our discussion about safety.*



Teachers test safer alternatives at workshop.

These are some of the responses we received from teachers at previous *Hazards on the Homefront* teacher workshops. Teachers throughout King County have been teaching their students how to read labels, choose safer alternatives, and dispose of household hazardous products since 1993 as a result of the *Hazards on the Homefront* teacher workshops. Designed to address a variety of learning styles as well as the types of questions on the

science WASL test, the material relates science and environmental issues to students' everyday choices. Moreover, the topic provides specific knowledge and actions directly related to the new health and fitness standards. In addition to free training, teachers who attend these workshops receive ready-to-use lesson plans, overheads, and student handouts. They also qualify for free follow-up classroom assistance and mini-grants. Clock hours and a

stipend are available for certified King County teachers on completion of workshop objectives.

Half-day workshops for teachers of grades 4-12 are offered Saturday, January 8 in Tukwila and Saturday, February 5 in Renton. To register or for more information, contact Andrea Petzel at 206-583-0655 x12 or by email: workshops@triangleassociates.com. ♦



Be a Green School. Save Money. Save Natural Resources.

Green Schools Program Successes

King County's Green Schools Program is currently assisting three school districts (Federal Way, Northshore and Vashon) and four individual schools to conserve natural resources and save dollars. Last year the program completed its work with Tolt Middle School and Bellevue High School.

A few successes are highlighted below, organized according to the eight environmental categories that constitute the Green Schools Program.

• Waste Reduction & Recycling:

Tolt Middle School (Carnation) reduced garbage disposal fees by \$3,000 and reduced garbage volume by 15 tons by recycling plastic bottles, composting in the school garden, and promoting the recycling program to students and staff.

• **Energy Conservation:** Three Cedars School (Bellevue) reduced energy use by 19,000 kwh and saved \$1,300 within eight months by replacing

incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.

• **Water Conservation:** Bellevue High School saved more than \$100 per month after a leak in an outdoor water fountain was discovered (through analysis of water bills by Green Schools Program staff) and repaired.

• **Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Tolt Middle School efforts led to the Riverview School District establishing an anti-idling policy requiring school buses to shut off engines if idling

containers throughout its campus, Bellevue High increased plastic bottle recycling from 7% to 40% and decreased litter by more than 50%.

• **Hazardous Waste Management & Reduction:** Vashon School District is using the King County Voucher Incentive Program to properly dispose of old chemicals from photography labs and to set up systems to recycle those chemicals in the future.

• **Environmental Purchasing:** Bellevue High science teachers,



Green Schools Program

for more than 30 seconds. Vashon School District and Three Cedars School are encouraging carpooling and riding the bus for getting to and from school.

• **Litter Reduction:** By setting up plastic bottle recycling

after testing refillable white board markers, are recommending them to other teachers as a means of reducing waste. Tolt Middle School is using non-toxic cleaning products and recycled content copy paper.

• **Addressing Environmental Issues in the Classroom:** Several participating schools are using King County's workshops, assembly programs and videos to educate students.

If your school or district would like help to conserve resources, contact Dale Alekel at dale.alekel@metrokc.gov or (206) 296-8457. Visit the web site at www.metrokc.gov/dnpr/swd/greenschools/index.asp. ♦

Girl Scouts: Earn a "Be Toxic-Free" Patch



For more information, call Stephanie Lingwood (206-826-2177) at the Girl Scout Totem Council, or contact Julia Berg (206-263-3042) julia.berg@metrokc.gov at King County's Household Hazardous Waste School and Youth Program.



Secondary School Programs *Design a Unit of Study*

Maximize Student Understanding of Waste Issues

Broaden and deepen your students' understanding of waste issues that affect our environment, our health and the future of our planet. Combine workshop offerings to give your students a comprehensive look at the impact of our actions on the natural systems of Earth, the issues affecting the sustainability of our planet, and the choices available to us to make a difference.

A full description of all the workshops is available at www.metrokc.gov/dnpr/swd/education/index.asp. You can also learn more by contacting:

- **Natural Connections (NC):** (206) 583-0655 or workshops@triangleassociates.com
- **Waste Busters (WB):** (206) 443-2851 or waste_busters@pacsci.org
- **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):** (206) 263-3082 or gail.gensler@metrokc.gov.

These hands-on, interactive programs challenge students to rethink their choices and take steps to make a difference for the environment.

Note: Some workshops are targeted to grades 6-8 or 9-12. Those for grades 6-12 are adapted up or down to fit the grade level.

Earth/Environment

- **Biodiversity, 6-12 grade (NC):** Explore what biodiversity is and why it is important for the survival of life on Earth.

- **Biospheres, 6-12 grade (WB):** Explore how Earth's natural cycles break down waste and how our activities affect natural systems.
- **Face the Waste, 9-12 grade (WB):** Students adopt roles within a simulated city council meeting to present and debate strategies for a waste management plan that's best for the community.
- **Slugs, Bugs, and Dirty Toilets, 6-12 grade (HHW):** Students learn how to identify hazardous products and their safer alternatives.

Consumption/Sustainability

- **Earth Impact: Overconsumption or Sustainability, 6-12 grade (NC):** Explore advertising, packaging, and our ecological footprint, so students recognize the impact of their choices on the environment and how to choose sustainable products.
- **Consumption Junction, 6-8 grade (WB):** Students learn about the time, energy, and natural resources that go into making an everyday product and what we can do to limit consumption.

Workshops are hands-on and interactive.



- **Weigh the Waste, 6-8 grade (WB):** Discover how and why the contents of a landfill have changed, by becoming a "garbologist" and investigating landfill samples from the last forty years.
- **Waste Not Want Not, 9-12 grade (WB):** Investigate connections between natural resources and the products we consume and how these concepts are the key to sustainability.

Sorting Out the Choices

- **Sorting It Out, 6-8 grade (WB):** Sort through a household's garbage, learn how to decrease solid waste by using alternatives to disposal, and find out what new products are made from your recycled materials.
- **Slugs, Bugs, and Dirty Toilets, 6-12 grade (HHW):** Sort through which household products are hazardous and which are safer.
- **Zero In On Waste, 6-8 grade (WB):** Through an interactive board game, students discover ways to reduce waste including seeing how a worm bin helps create less trash. ♦



Elementary Program

Earth Smart Adventures: Choices for Our Planet Opens

King County's new elementary assembly show opened in October, using the successful formula of student participation, humor and relevant real-life examples to motivate students to take care of our earth. *Earth Smart Adventures: Choices for Our Planet* features characters such as Hillary Stuff who appears on a TV commercial to advertise Sippy Sipps, the one-sip throwaway drink bottle that comes in a variety of fashion colors; and Gino, the junkyard plastic bottle, who suffered the fate of being thrown in the trash when he

couldda been somebody, if only someone had recycled him and given him new life as a fleece jacket or carpeting. These and other characters in the show help deliver the message that reducing waste and making smart choices can help our planet.

The program includes two versions of the assembly, one for primary and one for intermediate, with each running about 35 to 40 minutes. Two assembly programs are presented to schools with more than 350 students. This program, which runs through December, is available to King County elementary schools outside Seattle.

Schools that schedule the assembly can receive up to three classroom workshops from a selection of ten that encourage students to improve school recycling, set up a worm bin, pick up litter, and more. Assistance for classrooms that want to take on environmental projects or improve school recycling is also available

To schedule this FREE program, contact Triangle Associates at 206-583-0655 or workshops@triangleassociates.com. Information about the assembly can be found at: <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/elementaryschool/index.asp>.



Making smart choices to help our planet is a key message of the assembly.



Get Help From a Master Recycler Composter. (Or Become One Yourself!)

Would you like a Master Recycler Composter to come to your classroom? These volunteers receive approximately 40 hours of training about waste prevention, recycling, home composting and alternatives to household hazardous waste. They in turn share their knowledge and skills by volunteering at least 40 hours in the

community or at school. To request a volunteer, contact Susan Evans at 206-343-9759 x108 or susan@cacadiaconsulting.com.

Interested teachers can also sign up to be a Master Recycler Composter. The next eight-week tuition-free program will be held at SeaTac City Hall on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9 p.m.,

January 26th through March 16th and includes five Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The training is free and open to all King County residents outside of the City of Seattle. Applications for the program are due Monday, January 17, 2005. For more information about this program or to download an application go to <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/mrc/index.asp>.





King County

as part of the Local Hazardous
Waste Management Program
in King County

Hazards on the Homefront

Come to a FREE training workshop for 4th-12th grade teachers!

Saturday, January 8th, 2005, 7:30-12:30
at the Tukwila Community Center

Saturday, February 5th, 2005, 7:30-12:30
at Kohlwe Education Center, Renton



- Learn about safer alternatives to hazardous household products.
- Teach your students to improve their health, safety, and environment.
- Receive ready-to-use lesson plans that are easy to integrate into existing curriculum.
- Use real-life environmental topics that teach science, reading and writing EALRS.

Fabulous workshop — one of the best I've been to.

— Middle School Health Teacher

I am excited about adding this to my life skills curriculum.

— High School Teacher

This free workshop includes:

- Stipend for certified King County teachers on completion of workshop objectives
- Free *Hazards on the Homefront Teacher's Guide* & Green Cleaning Kit
- Refreshments
- Clock hours (available for a fee)
- Opportunities for free follow-up classroom assistance for projects



Register by mail, phone, or fax to:

Andrea Petzel, Triangle Associates
811 First Avenue, Suite 255, Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: 206-583-0655 ext. 12 Fax: 206-382-0669
E-mail: workshops@triangleassociates.com

Please expect a written/email confirmation.

Registration Form for Hazards on the Homefront Workshop

Name _____

School name _____

Grade level _____

Subject _____

Home address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Home phone number _____

E-mail _____

Workshop date (circle one): **January 8th** **February 5th**

☐ I am interested in clock hours.

☐ I am unable to attend the workshop on this date, but I am interested in future workshops.

This material will be provided in alternate formats upon request.



Household Hazardous Waste Education



At a HHW teacher workshop, participants learn specific hands-on lessons to teach to their students. Contact Andrea Petzel at (206) 583-0655 X 12 to sign up for a workshop or email workshops@triangleassociates.com.



Teaching label reading and other HHW lessons make the connection between everyday products and issues of health and environment.

This Shorecrest High School teacher gave her students the task of analyzing neighborhood soils and runoff to determine the presence of household hazardous products in the local environment.



**Learn it,
teach it,
practice it.**

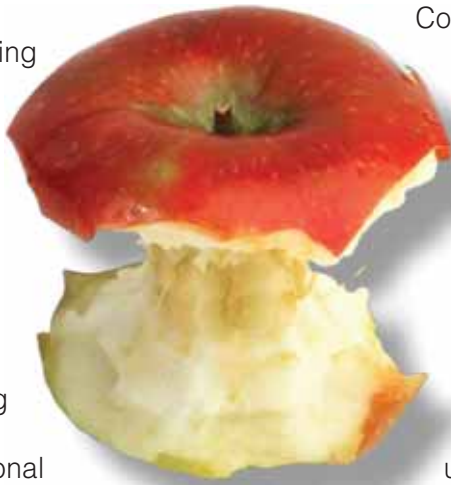
Gail Gensler from the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County gives a classroom presentation about identifying household hazardous waste. To invite Gail to your classroom, call (206) 263-3092 or email gail.gensler@metrokc.gov.



Food Waste Composting at Educational Sites

The King County Solid Waste Division is currently conducting a pilot program to assess the feasibility of on-site, in-vessel commercial food waste composting. Three different composting systems are being tested, with the following educational facilities participating in the project:

- Briarwood Elementary
- Crestwood Elementary
- Lake Washington Technical College
- The Evergreen School
- Waskowitz Outdoor Education Center
- Camp Sealth
- Pacific Crest Montessori Farm



While the benefit to the County and the school is in reducing waste, this project provides teachers and students with opportunities to learn about composting. Waskowitz finds that their Earth Tub helps students understand the natural food cycle.

Another benefit is that finished compost can be used to improve soil in the school garden, greenhouse, or general landscape. Crestwood has named its system bEARTHa and intends to distribute the finished compost as bEARTHa Dirt. If you'd like to learn more about the different composting systems used at schools or opportunities for assistance, please contact Kinley Deller at (206) 296-4434. ♦

Nominations Sought for Outstanding Recyclers

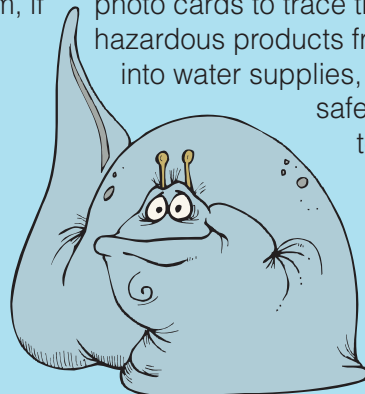
The Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) is seeking nominations for outstanding recycling professionals, innovative government administrators and everyday folks making a measurable difference to improve the environment. Awards include a K-12 category. The 2005 awards will be presented at the WSRA 2005 Annual Banquet to be held Tuesday, May 3 in Yakima, Washington.

Detailed criteria for award categories and nomination forms are available on the WSRA website, <http://www.wsra.net> or by simply calling the WSRA offices (206) 244-0311 for a fax or email copy. ♦

Nominations are due by March 1, 2005.

Slugs, Bugs, and Dirty Toilets: How Hazardous Waste Hits Home

If your students are studying health or the environment, exploring chemical reactions, or raising salmon in the classroom, if you are already connecting science with social issues, or would like to do more of this, consider this highly interactive presentation. You can choose from a one-hour or a more in-depth two-to-three hour workshop.



Highlights include handling over 60 real household products to find the hazardous ones, arranging photo cards to trace the route of hazardous products from the home into water supplies, or learning safer alternatives to hazardous products through playing Toxic-Free Bingo.

Teachers receive a follow-up packet and Green Cleaning Kit. Students receive handouts, including experiment cards that show how to make safe cleaners.

The program is open to grades 4-12. Scheduling is available on a first come, first served basis. To schedule, contact Gail Gensler at (206) 263-3082 or gail.gensler@metrokc.gov or <http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/schoolyouth/>. ♦



Deck the Halls with Less Waste This Year

In a new national survey for the Center for a New American Dream, 91 percent of respondents believe that most of us buy and consume far more than we need. And the holidays are a peak time for consumption - Americans throw away 25 percent more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year's holiday period than any other time of year.

A program to help you consume less is **Waste Free Holidays**

(www.wastefreeholidays.com), sponsored by King County and the City of Tacoma. This program rewards shoppers who "Give an



experience instead of stuff." From Nov. 26 to Dec. 31, 2004, participating businesses and organizations offer a discount of 15 percent or more on "experience" gifts: tickets, gift certificates or memberships. These include arts performances, sports events, restaurant meals, massages, classes and many other events and activities.

For other ideas on reducing waste during the holiday season, see the Center for a New American Dream website: www.newdream.org/holiday. ♦

Websites of Interest

Healthy Schools: Find out about pesticide use at schools and what you can do about it. www.watoxics.org.

Household Products Database: Learn what's in household products, potential health effects, and safety and handling from the National Institute of Health. <http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/>

A Behind the Scenes Guide to the Things We Buy: Get answers to your questions about the environmental and social impacts of the products you buy and use. <http://www.worldwatch.org/pubs/goodstuff/> ♦

This material will be provided in alternate formats upon request.



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